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Repression

Hemisphere brass meet with CIA

By LIDICE VALENZUELA

Prensa Latina

HAVANA--The enormous feet of Vernon Walters once again trod the floors of Brasilia's modern airport. He entered Brazil with a passport describing him as an industrial executive.

Walters' comings and goings between the United States and Brazil are frequent.

Last March 13, surrounded by Brazilian photographers and journalists, he escorted Mrs. Pat Nixon, special representative of President Nixon, to attend the inauguration of Ernesto Geisel Beckmann as President.

Walters, who speaks five languages well, arrived in Brasilia with the special mission of "translating" for the First Lady of the United States.

His visit, however, had more important objectives than the task of presidential page. This was to be the first meeting of the military chiefs of the four most reactionary countries of the hemisphere.

General Vernon Walters is deputy chief of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. He speaks in excellent Portuguese to a Brazilian marshal, Humberto Castello Branco.

Their friendship, formed during World

War II, paid off in Rio de Janeiro, the day after the fall of the government of Joao Goulart in 1964.

Walters and Castello Branco had plotted the overthrow of the constitutional president. Posing as military attache of the U.S. Embassy in Rio, a post he held since 1962, Walters manipulated the military coup which brought Castello Branco to power.

According to Newsweek Magazine (Oct. 11, 1966), "One week before the coup, Walters had already cabled to Washington all the details of its organization. The day after Castello Branco became president, the military attache lunched with him privately at the presidential palace."

Since then — and especially after his official appointment as deputy CIA chief in 1972 — Brasilia is virtually his second political home.

What is Walters doing in Brasilia? He is there to make Brazil the center of a political-economic group of countries most identified with imperialist ideology: Chile, Bolivia, Uruguay and Paraguay.

The purpose of this bloc is to fortify Brazil's hegemony and to maintain the other, economically weak and dependent, countries under a "protectorate."

The military strengthening of the armed forces and financial, technical and cultural aid were covered in the agreements adopted during the meetings between the visiting chiefs of dictatorial regimes and their host, General Ernesto Geisel.

Through Walters' initiative Geisel will visit Bolivia and General Pinochet of Chile in the next few months.

In 1969, Newton Carlos, Brazilian journalist, quoted Gen. Arnaury Kruel, then commander of the Second Army, based in Sao Paulo, as saying: "In Brazil there are at least 45,000 persons serving the CIA of whom I know officially."

A short time after the installation of the military regime ten years ago the CIA, through the National Security Program (OPS) projected the following measures:

- A geographic and socio-political study of the country.

- Establishment of a uniform national system of police communications.

- Modernization of the National Codification Institute, central organization for police files, to make available the police file of any suspected individual.

- Infiltration of Peace Corps personnel.

Plotter in Brazil

especially trained to curb the activities of democratic elements.

—Infiltration of agents into trade unions and public organizations to detect movements opposing the political system, and to cause ideological division in the workers' organizations.

—Permanent contact with the National Information Service, which also works for the CIA.

More than 100,000 policemen have been trained by CIA personnel during the last four years, according to figures published by the Agency for International Development, which finances national security programs.

A confidential document of 1955 (AAA/205.1) reveals that the military brass of Brazil acts as spies for the U.S. counterintelligence.

The document, addressed to the U.S. Embassy, says: "In reply to the latest suggestions of the U.S. Government, Brazilian security authorities are already preparing vast documentation on subversive activities in the country before April 1964."

This systematic espionage work continues today through the embassies which Brazil maintains in countries regarded as "interesting" by the CIA, primarily in Latin America.

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CIA Gets Watergate Vindication

By Laurence Stern

Washington Post Staff Writer

The newest installment of White House transcripts strongly vindicates the Central Intelligence Agency in its long-standing denials of any direct involvement in the Watergate break-in.

The transcripts of the tape recordings reveal — in the President's own utterances — that the CIA was injected into the Watergate case by Mr. Nixon and his top aides. Their efforts delayed for nearly two weeks the FBI investigation of the first major evidentiary link between the Watergate burglars and the 1972 Nixon campaign organization.

But the strategy ultimately failed when former CIA Director Richard M. Helms persistently refused to give a written declaration to former acting FBI Director L. Patrick Gray III that the bureau's investigation threatened to expose covert CIA activities in Mexico.

The plan concocted in the White House by the President and his chief of staff, H. R. (Bob) Haldeman, was to direct the CIA to tell the FBI to "stay the hell out of" (Haldeman's words) the investigation of Nixon funds which were laundered through a Mexico City bank account and ended up in the pockets of the Watergate burglars.

The new evidence wholly undermines the President's repeated claims that he was motivated by national security considerations in implicating the CIA. Mr. Nixon said on May 22, 1973, that his initial suspicions of CIA involvement were incorrect. But he did not concede, until the release of the latest bombshells of evidence, that the concern was to cover up Watergate-White House connections.

True to its institutional ways, the CIA had no comment yesterday on the latest developments. But there is little doubt that the tape disclosures provided a certain joy in Langley in the aftermath of the hammering the CIA has taken throughout the unfolding Watergate scandal.

There was one fleeting and cryptic presidential comment in the new transcripts relating to Helms on which no informed officials could shed light. It was the President's remark that "well, we protected Helms from one hell of a lot."

Previous testimony in the CIA-Watergate affair has revealed that the White House acted through the CIA's deputy director, Gen. Vernon Walters, a former military aide to Mr. Nixon in his vice-presidential days, to carry the message to the FBI.

Walters initially complied with the White House directive that he tell Gray the FBI investigation in Mexico endangered covert CIA operations. But he reversed himself in the face of the insistence of his boss, Helms, that there was no basis for such a stand by the agency. Helms, who had a reputation as an adroit maneuverer in Washington's bureaucratic minefields, was pursuing a strategy of "distancing" the agency from the scandal.

Despite the confirmatory revelations of the new tapes, the CIA does not emerge from the episode with its skirts in spotless condition.

Item. The agency did, in 1971, agree to provide—at high-level White House direction—spy paraphernalia to White House "plumbers"

E. Howard Hunt and G. Gordon Liddy which was used in the Daniel Ellsberg break-in. The CIA's defense was that it did not know what the equipment would be used for.

Item. In testimony to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee early in 1973 Helms testified that the CIA had no dealings with Hunt or any of the other Watergate break-in figures subsequent to their retirement from the agency. It was Helms' successor, James G. Schlesinger, who broke the story of the 1971 assistance to Hunt to investigating congressional committees.

Item. After turning off Senate Foreign Relations Committee early in 1973 Helms testified that the CIA had no dealings with Hunt or any of the other Watergate break-in figures subsequent to their retirement from the agency. It was Helms' successor, James G. Schlesinger, who broke the story of the 1971 assistance to Hunt to investigating congressional committees.

Item. Helms also denied in testimony to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the CIA was involved in an interagency White House domestic intelligence program launched in 1970. Subsequent publication of the so-called "Huston Plan" (drafted by former White House aide Tom Charles Huston) confirmed that Helms personally participated in the White House program. The CIA is prohib-

ited by its congressional charter from becoming involved in internal security enforcement matters.

But on the crucial question of CIA involvement in Watergate, the White House-instigated effort to suspend the FBI's investigation of the re-election committee cash, Helms stood firm against what must then have seemed awesome presidential pressures.

The new tapes gave some measure of how powerful those pressures must have been.

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